THE OLD AND THE NEW METHOD OF TEACHING.

AND STUDY.

Mt.11:2,3.

Introduction.

John the Baptist who had suddenly emerged from his obscurity in the wilderness and boldly preached baptism unto repentance, bearing witness thst Jesus was the long-looked-for Messiah is now shut up in prison. He has been there thru the winter, and the months of dark, dank dungeon atmosphere have shaken his strong constitution. The reports concerning Jesus disturb him considerably. Jesus is not increasing in His Messiahship as John had expected. Jesus' method of proceedure is altogether too gentle and weak for the austere, uncompromising, and bold Baptist who expected to see ~~Jesus~~ the heralded Messiah take the world by the collar and at once shake all the evil out of it. Because Jesus' way is not John's way the messianic Elijah loses confidence and sends forth messengers to inquire of the Master if he be the Christ or not. Jesus returns the messengers to tell John what they themselves hear and see; namely, that the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up.

Jesus did not tell John that He was the Christ but gave him the evidence, letting him work it out for himself and from his own point of view. John is of the Old Dispensation and uses the methods of the Old School, while Christ ushers in a New Dispensation requiring new methods and a different point of view. Our text so well illustrates the controlling principles of the old and the new methods of teaching and study of our own day that I have chosen it to consider the theme: THE OLD AND THE NEW METHOD OF TEACHING AND STUDY.

A. The Old Method of Teaching and Study.

I. In the public and sunday-schools.

1. Children are tought to respect, honor, and revere old age.
2. Children are tought from the teacher's point of view, regardless of their own.
3. Those children failing to grasp the facts of truth taughtthem are dubbed dunces.

II. In the Higher Branches of learning, both religious and secular.

1. Present-day writing and scholarship judged solely by the standards of the Past's best literature and scholarship.
2. Examples.
   - a/ the setting aside of poetry and other forms of literary production simply because it is too recent or is not just like what we have been accusyomed to.
   - b/ Interpretations of the Bible that do not agree with those of the great theologians are condemned as heretical and worthless.

B. The New Method of Teaching and Study.

I. Old age honors and respects youth for in youth is the possibility of a ~~greater~~ better and and more enlightened Old Age.

Pitt, in his reply to Walpole who had taunted him with being a"young man", said, "Age may become justly contemptible, if the opportunities which it brings have passed away without improvement, and vice appears to prevail when the passions have subsided. The wretch who, after having seen the consequences of a thousand errors, still continues to blunder, and whose age has only added obstinacy to stupidity, is surely the object of either abhorrence or contempt, and deserves not that his gray hairs should secure him from insult."

2. The child is taught from his own point of view, which is the point of contact between the child and the truth to be learned, enabling the child to grasp readily and grow rapidly and symetrically.

  a — Jas. Hughe's dunce and his accepted plan for Toronto's new building.

  b — It is an appeal to experience, advancing from the known to the unknown.
  Mr. A., Mr. B, and the weather.
  black clouds, west wind, lightning

3. The present age, being the child of the ages past must be allowed to ~~grow~~ learn and grow by the same method.

Example
X's attitude toward the O. T.

1. Reverence for it.
   a) appeals to its authority
   b) Expresses his own message in its words.
2. Independence of it.
   a) Depreciation of religious ritual
   b) Abrogation of a specific Social law
   c) Announcement of higher ideals for Social Life.

Our present day attitude
" " interpretation
of Scripture.

Scripture in the light of the Spirit of God within us, and not confine that truth within the limitations of any past man or past doctrine or past creed.

3. Let us not expect Christ to do His works according to ~~th~~ our way of doing things but let us accept His works as He himself does it. Let our consecration mean, not that Christ is conformed to us, but that we are conformed to Him.

An original, fresh, consistent treatment. I would call the theme, "The Old and the New Method of Teaching and Study".

W. H. L.

II. The vision of a greater old age to come keeps the present old age young and vigorous.

1. The teacher unfolding his ~~own~~ store of knowledge in the light of the child's own point of view keeps himself constantly in a child-like condition which enables the teacher to ever increase the depth and breadth of his own vision and at the same time to always be in sympathy with those whom he is teaching.
2. In this same way can past great men and past ages ever be kept alive and instructive to present men and to the present time

Conclusion

1. Let us present the Gospel truth to the world, not merely from our view point, but also in the light of the world's own view point in order that those in the world may be attracted to Christ, their Savior.
2. Let us be instructed by the spiritual teachers and doctrines and creeds of the past, but let us look at the truth in Holy